

Autism Spectrum Disorders in Very Young Children: Providing Screening and Support

Introduction

Content Level: Basic

The materials below were developed for the audio cast that originally aired on June 25, 2008. Use this information to supplement your learning and to evaluate the experience.

To make the most of this training experience:

- **Read the Faculty Biographies and the Applying the Information handouts before the audio cast begins.** These handouts are designed to help you prepare for the program and consider how the information faculty share can be applied where you are.
- **Schedule some time for reflection after the audio cast.** An individual staff member can use the **Applying the Information** handout to practice new skills. However, discussing information as a team is the best way to get a collective sense of what is in place at your program, how early screenings identify children for further evaluation, and how staff offer families support.
- **Use the handouts to discuss** new information and to plan for the future.

Faculty Biographies

Carol Mills, Moderator

Disabilities Specialist
American Indian/Alaska Native Technical Assistance Network
Academy for Educational Development



Carol Mills has over 20 years of experience working in early childhood education and staff development, with a particular interest in serving Native American populations and organizations. She has served children and families as an early interventionist, a counselor, and a Head Start teacher and director. She has also served as a federal reviewer and auditor and a training and technical assistance provider for American Indian/Alaska Native programs. Carol has a Masters in Early Childhood Education from Wheelock College and a Masters in Psychology from Cambridge College in Massachusetts.

Sheryl Billey

Classroom Educator, Home-Based Option
Spokane County Early Head Start program



Sheryl Billey has been in the early childhood field for over 25 years. After several years teaching in preschool classrooms, Sheryl was hired by Spokane County Head Start/ Early Head Start program to serve as the lead teacher in an infant-toddler class. For the past two years, she has served in her current role, facilitating socializations for the home-based Early Head Start program. Sheryl has a BS in Human Development and Family Studies from Colorado State University and recently received her Master's in Education with an emphasis in Early Childhood Education from the University of Phoenix. On several occasions throughout her career, Sheryl left the classroom for administrator positions, but always returns to the classroom to work directly with the children and families.

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Jayne Lytel

Author,

Act Early Against Autism: Give Your Child a Fighting Chance from the Start



Jayne Lytel was a nationally syndicated columnist when, soon after his first birthday, her second son, Leo, wasn't responding in ways his brother had at the same age. When Leo was diagnosed with autism, Jayne fought the label and at the same time she immersed herself in a search for appropriate treatments. After four years of rigorous and sometimes grueling interventions—including home-based programs—he no longer meets the diagnostic criteria for an autism spectrum disorder and no longer receives therapy. Today, Leo is highly verbal, attends a mainstream school and thrives in his childhood. Jayne founded the Early Intervention Network to provide practical information, empower families, and share the importance of early intervention.

Georgina Peacock

Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrician

Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) Fellow



Dr. Georgina Peacock is a developmental-behavioral pediatrician who works as an AUCD fellow at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities on the Learn the Signs, Act Early campaign. This campaign is helping to increase awareness about developmental milestones and delays, and the benefits of early intervention. Georgina's clinical focus includes evaluation of developmental problems and concerns including autism. In addition to her work with the CDC, Georgina continues to provide developmental evaluations and to follow children in direct practice. Georgina received her Medical Degree and Masters in Public Health from the University of Kansas, where she also completed a residency in Pediatrics and a Fellowship in Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics.

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